PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION.

IK preparing this edition, the author has subjected the work to a thorough revision. His aim has been to leave out all that is of temporary, and to retain only what is of permanent interest. Without sensibly increasing the volume, he has introduced new discussions on topics of some importance, both in their theological and philosophical bearings.

As beii^g in circumstances to support them by a large body of facts, he has given in Book Second an epitome of his views and published observations in regard to the forms and colours of plants.

In the Third Book, in consequence of having attained, by farther reflection, clearer views of some ethical points, he has modified some of the statements of former editions,

In the Appendix he has reluctantly felt it to be his duty to venture a protest against certain principles set forth by the greatest metaphysicians of the age.

BKUTAST, *May* 1865